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John R. Emra
State President
AT&T Connecticut

December 21, 2017

The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy
Governor of Connecticut
Executive Chambers
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Malloy:

I hope this letter finds you well and looking forward to the holidays. It was good to see you and have the opportunity to speak with you in New Orleans earlier this month.

On behalf of everyone at AT&T, I appreciate you and your team's thorough and thoughtful consideration of the FirstNet State Plan for Connecticut. We have had well over a dozen meetings with your team to present the value of opting in to AT&T/FirstNet, and to address their questions and concerns. As you are aware, the state's Public Safety Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) voted unanimously earlier this month to recommend to you that you opt-in to AT&T/FirstNet.

As the opt-in deadline is fast approaching, I wanted to take a moment to offer clarification on the impacts to Connecticut if the state opts-out, and subsequently chooses not to submit an alternative plan to the FCC or its alternative plan is not approved by the FCC, and thus reverts back to the AT&T-deployed RAN as described in the existing State Plan (as set forth in the State Plan Portal on September 29, 2017).

There are consequences for opting-out and pushing off a decision for up to 240 days. Once a state has opted out, it will lose many of the benefits or incentives that it would receive as part of an opt-in decision on or prior to December 28, 2017. Below is a list of some potential impacts of such a scenario for your consideration:

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- 1) **No Additional Enhancements:** If the State opts out and decides to reverse that decision during or at the end of the 240-day FCC submission period, the state RAN will be built only as described in the state plan [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and will not include any additional enhancements such as new sites or deployable assets (both of which would otherwise be available to Connecticut as part of an opt-in on or prior to December 28th). During our consultations, the State expressed concerns about coverage in certain areas and locations and AT&T offered [REDACTED] new site builds, [REDACTED] in-building systems and [REDACTED] customer owned and maintained (COAM) deployables. The new site builds would come from a pool of sites we are contractually required to build for FirstNet across the United States. AT&T has discretion as to where those sites will be built throughout the United States. If Connecticut elects to opt out and then chooses not to submit an alternative plan to the FCC or its alternative plan is not approved by the FCC, AT&T will only build [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the State Plan portal, as any new site builds will no longer be available given that they will have been reallocated to be built elsewhere in the United States, per our contract with FirstNet, and AT&T will not provide the [REDACTED] in-building systems or the [REDACTED] COAMs.

- 2) **Less Funding Available:** FirstNet may have less funding available to deploy Band 14 in Connecticut with an opt-out decision. Currently, FirstNet holds funding in specific amounts to deploy the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) in each state under the NPSBN contract with AT&T. Once a state chooses to pursue an opt-out alternative, that funding becomes available, as part of a pool, for grants that are administered by another government entity. The amount allocated to grants through this separate program is unlikely to equal the amount currently set aside for deployment under the NPSBN contract. With an opt-out decision, the financial resources available for deployment in Connecticut could very well be less as compared to those amounts available with an opt-in decision.
- 3) **Delay of Public Safety Services & Reduced Network Capabilities:** An opt-out decision will delay the availability of potentially life-saving network services, such as priority and preemption, to Connecticut's first responders. By opting in, Connecticut's public safety entities have immediate access to priority services and preemption capabilities. If Connecticut opts out and decides to reverse that decision during or before the FCC approval stage (240 days), Connecticut's deployment and access to services will, unfortunately, be at the tail end of deployment throughout the country as all of the other opt-in state task orders will have been issued during those 240 days, meaning work will likely have begun in those opt-in states. This will significantly delay any deployment in the state. If Connecticut pursues an opt-out decision past the FCC stage, it is estimated that a successful progression through the entire opt-out process could take up to two years past December 28, 2017, before any opt-out deployment could even *begin* using FirstNet Band 14 spectrum (assuming facilities were already in place). This delay may present an unacceptable risk for Connecticut's first responders and mutual aid; particularly for natural disasters and big events in Connecticut like the Traveler's Championship, Sailfest, and the Durham Fair.

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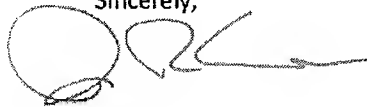
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In making their recommendation to opt-in to AT&T/FirstNet, the SIEC found that the operational and financial risks of opting-out were far too great for the state to consider that option. There is nothing in their analysis to suggest that the risks of opting-out would be any lower in 240 days. Failing to opt in on or before December 28th would however mean a loss of desired network enhancements; the risk of a loss of federal funding; and most importantly, a possible significant delay in providing first responders the dedicated communications network they need and want to serve the citizens of Connecticut.

Thank you for your commitment to Connecticut's first responders, and your administration's focus on public safety interoperability and FirstNet. I am hopeful that you will decide to opt-in to the AT&T/FirstNet solution soon, as it is the best choice for Connecticut's first responders. Forty-one states and territories have already opted-in and have started realizing the benefits of the latest first responder communications technology. I'm excited for this opportunity to be realized in Connecticut.

My best to you and your family during this holiday season. I hope you will not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Emra', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

John R. Emra

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